FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

10 FEBRUARY 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Iran launched a ground offensive across the Arvand River near Khorramshahr the night of 9-10 February, "crushing" and capturing many Iraqi troops, IRNA reported, citing an Iranian military spokesman. Iranian forces captured Umm al-Rasas Island and its "important" oil installations 10 February, the agency later claimed, asserting that the offensive poses a "grave danger" to the Iraqi city of Al-Basrah.

Meanwhile, Iraq acknowledged that Iranian forces "gained a shaky foothold in some forward areas" but claimed that "the bulk" of the attacking forces had been wiped out, according to a military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio 10 February. An INA correspondent later asserted that Iran "paid a dear price" in its "frustrated" effort to cross the Shatt al-'Arab waters, adding that Iraq was pursuing the remainder of the attacking Iranian force.

In earlier developments, Iraqi planes hit three large maritime targets near the Iranian coast and attacked Khark Island and the Ganaveh oil pipeline intersection over the weekend, while Iraqi air defenses and aircraft downed an Iranian F-14 and F-4, according to Iraqi military communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. An Iranian military spokesman cited by IRNA subsequently denied that Iran had lost the planes.

Libyan Threat to Intercept Israeli Airliners

Libyan fighter planes searching for Israeli aircraft have flown as far north in the Mediterranean as the air lane linking Greece and Italy, JANA reported 8 February. The report followed Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's orders that the Libyan Air Force intercept any Israeli civilian airliner flying over the Mediterranean within range of Libyan airbases. At a 7 February news conference reported by Tripoli radio, Col al-Qadhdhafi said that intercepted Israeli planes would be forced to land and then searched for "Israeli terrorists wanted by Libyan courts," and he named in particular Israeli Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon and former Prime Minister Menahem Begin. Libya will exercise its "right" to intercept Israeli planes in spite of an announcement that U.S. military maneuvers will resume off the Libyan coast, a Foreign Liaison Bureau statement broadcast by Tripoli television 8 February added.

Meanwhile, Libya's naval, air, and air defense forces began military exercises with live ammunition in the Tripoli "flight information region" and in the "economic zone" 8 February, JANA reported. The safety of civil aviation in the area will be ensured during the exercises, which are to last until 16 February, JANA added.

Reacting to Al-Qadhdhafi's announcement, Israeli foreign minister Yitzhaq Shamir told IDF radio 9 February that measures are being taken to ensure "foolproof security" for Israeli flights, and of Al-Qadhdhafi he commented that "nobody is scared of him, nobody takes him too seriously." Israel's Civil Aviation Authority announced 7 February that flight paths to and from Israel were being modified to avoid Libyan and Syrian airspace, Jerusalem radio reported. Greece also altered flight paths in order to keep El Al planes away from Libyan airspace, *MA'ARIV reported 9 February*.

PDRY

The PDRY authorities announced the death of 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il in a statement broadcast by Aden radio 10 February, praising him as "the torch of the party and the noblest and most loyal struggler of scientific socialism in our country." Although the announcement did not say when Isma'il died, PDRY officials had earlier informed A DFLP delegation visiting Aden that Isma'il died from his wounds on 13 January, according to a DFLP spokesman cited by KUNA.

In further political developments, the Supreme People's Council held a meeting 8 February during which it approved the election of Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas as chairman of a reconstituted Presidium. The decision to confirm al-'Attas as the new head of state was announced in a Supreme People's Council statement broadcast by Aden radio. The statement also listed the new Council of Ministers, headed by Chairman Yasin Sa'id Nu'man. 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali retains his post as foreign minister, Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad is the new defense minister, and Salih Munassar al-Siyayli is interior minister and a deputy chairman.

Meanwhile, in an interview with Kuwait's *AL-RAY AL-'AMM* at the end of his visit to Damascus, former PDRY leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad denied "American allegations" that the Soviet Union and Cuba were involved in the fighting in the PDRY, KUNA reported.

PLO-Jordanian Talks

A Baghdad Voice of PLO radio commentary reacted sharply against the U.S. State Department's view that the talks were a failure, stressing that the Jordanian-Palestinian talks were not negotiations but an exchange of views that included a discussion of the latest U.S. proposal. It has been "proved" that the U.S. proposal is not an important new development, the radio added, and it is therefore "impossible" to say that the talks have failed. The PLO radio blamed the continual failure of peace efforts on the United States' insistence that the PLO recognize Resolution 242 without offering U.S. recognition of Palestinian rights in return.

In Israel, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres stated that Husayn's attempt to establish a dialogue with 'Arafat suffered a "devastating failure," Jerusalem radio reported, and he said Israel can now proceed on its own to give the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza more control over their own lives until a formal

agreement is reached. While Peres stressed that this solution should not be called unilateral autonomy, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Defense Minister Rabin subsequently criticized proposals for unilateral autonomy in remarks cited by the radio.

In a separate diplomatic development, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad received Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i 9 February for talks on the regional situation and issues of mutual interest, according to Damascus radio.

Lebanon

Responding to Lebanese accusations that Israel has annexed Lebanese territory, an Israeli military spokeswoman cited by Jerusalem radio stated that Israel has not annexed any part of southern Lebanon and has no intention of doing so. The denial followed statements by President Amin al-Jumayyil and other Lebanese officials accusing Israel of annexing areas of southern Lebanon in an attempt to divert water from the Al-Litani River, according to Beirut radio.

In another development, Jerusalem radio reported that the Amal Movement has arrested some 100 Communist Party members suspected of involvement in attacks on Israel and the army of southern Lebanon. Voice of Lebanon radio linked the arrests with subsequent Amal-Communist clashes in Beirut. The security situation in the northern city of Tripoli became "tense" 9 February after the murder of two Syrians and an Islamic Unification Movement official, Beirut radio noted.

Iran

USSR-Iranian relations are now "fully developed," Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in a 9 February news conference reported by IRNA. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated that Iran's foreign policy continues to be based on nonalignment with both superpowers, but he added that "the Soviet Union is not like the United States," which has "ceaselessly plotted" against Iran.

In a separate news conference 9 February broadcast by Tehran radio, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi accused Saudi Arabia and Kuwait of attempting to "sabotage" efforts by oil-producing states to lower their production levels, adding that Iran "will not remain quiet" about this "hostile" stance.

Gulf Affairs

The GCC foreign ministers discussed the situation on the Arabian Peninsula and in the Gulf at an extraordinary meeting in Manama 9 February, Manama radio reported, citing the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs.

Algeria

President Chadli Bendjedid approved the appointment of four new ministers and assignments for three military officials, Algiers radio reported.

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Airspace Violation by Pakistan Protested

LD091604 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1530 GMT 9 Feb 86

[Text] Kabul, 9 Feb BAKHTAR — The charge d'affaires of Pakistan's embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1430 today and the following points were made to him by the director of the First Political Section:

According to the reports by the relevent DRA authorities, despite the repeated DRA protests, the Pakistani military authorities are continuing their aggression and interference on DRA soil. On 6 February at 1220, a Pakistani jet entered DRA airspace in the region of Shin Kor, Konar Province, and flew for 5 minutes before leaving DRA airspace via (?Sorki), Khas Konar.

The DRA Government condemns this provocative and irresponsible aggression by the Pakistani Armed Forces and lodges a strong protest against the Government of Pakistan. It demands that the Pakistani military authorities put an end to such actions, which only aggravate the situation in the region; otherwise, the responsibility for such aggression will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

Also, the Pakistani military authorities, in order to divert the attention of the people of Pakistan from the internal troubles and explosions taking place in that country, has claimed that on 31 January two helicopters had fired rockets at the village of (?Kholacha).

The DRA government after investigation, considers this claim completely untrue, resolutely rejects it, and states that the Pakistani authorities should stop such lies, which only aggravate the situation in the region.

Politburo Session Discusses Draft Economic Guidelines

LD082338 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Feb 86

[Excerpts] As the dear compatriots are aware, the PDPA Central Committee Politburo session was held on 15 Dawl [4 February] under the chairmanship of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council. In this session, the report of the Council of Ministers regarding the draft of the basic directions for the socioeconomic growth of the DRA for 1365-1369 [1986-1990] was approved after the hearing and all-round assessment.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo pointed out that in the draft of the basic directions for the socioeconomic growth of the DRA for the years 1365-1369 which was presented by the DRA Council of Ministers, several measures have been planned for the socioeconomic growth of the country, the consolidation of the financial and technical basis toward the building of a democratic society in accordance with the guiding resolutions of the PDPA and the DRA Government with regard to the country's socioeconomic growth, and especially the resolutions of the PDPA Central Committee's 16th Plenum and the DRA Revolutionary Council statement on the national democratic nature of April Revolution and its (?undeniable) tasks in the present situation.

The volume of national income will increase by 26 percent, production of industrial goods by 38 percent, and the gross agricultural production by 14.16 percent during the coming 5 years. Special attention will be paid to the growth of the important sector of the national economy, agriculture and irrigation. The investment volume in this sector will increase 1.7 times. A considerable amount of chemical fertilizer, improved seeds, and agricultural technology will be available for the peasants, cooperatives, and state agricultural establishments. The volume of work for the improvement and repair of the irrigation system will increase. The necessary conditions will be provided for the sale of products and posibilities for the export of the agricultural products.

The rapid growth of public health, training, education, higher education, science, and culture have been taken into consideration.

The all-round aid from friendly countries, especially the Soviet Union's fraternal aid, which is more than 70 percent of the DRA's total foreign economic aid, has an extraordinary importance in solving matters related to the country's socioeconomic growth for the next 5 years. With the USSR's technical and economic assistance, the construction of more than 130 important projects in all sectors of the national economy has been taken into consideration for the years 1365-1369.

The realization of the measures, which have been anticipated in the draft of the basic directions for the socioeconomic growth of the DRA for the years 1365-1369, will ensure the DRA's subsequent consolidation of the financial and social basis.

Briefs

Kabul Airport Extension — The first phase of the Kabul International Airport extension was opened today by Brigadier General Muhammad Ra'fi, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and vice-chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers and Aleksander Petrov, economic adviser at the USSR Embassy in Kabul. This phase includes the runway, taxiway, radio system and four structures and has been completed early as a result of hard work by the relevant workers and employees. [Excerpt] [*Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Feb 86 LD*]

President Meets With Army Officers on Security Steps

BK091624 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Feb 86

[Text] President Ershad has discussed with the senior Army officers measures for maintaining peace and discipline for unhindered development and holding of the national elections. The president discussed the steps at the meeting at the Sena Sadar [military headquarters] in Dhaka today. He said continued peace and discipline are essential, particularly at a time when the country cannot afford any setback which can disturb peace and uninterrupted development. The meeting took stock of the socio-economic conditions, including development strategy, and discussed measures for further gearing up the implementation process of development projects to boost the national economy. The overall situation in the country was also discussed.

The president today directed the police to take stern measures against all sort of social indiscipline for ensuring peace and order in society. He gave the directive when the new Inspector General of Police, Mr A.R. Khandekar, called on him at Banga Bhavan [president's house]. The president said that police should maintain peace and discipline at any cost to ensure the security of life and the property of the citizens. No one must take his own course. While applying law, the police should see that innocent persons do not fall victims to circumstances. Referring to the recent violence in the campus, the president said the government cannot allow any quarter to jeopardize security of life and property of the people.

Reportage on 5-Day Visit of FRG President

Economic, Political Talks Planned

HK071200 Hong Kong AFP in English 1047 GMT 7 Feb 86

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 7 (AFP) — West German President Richard Von Weizsacker arrives here on Monday for a visit expected to focus on the expansion of Bonn-Dhaka ties through development cooperation. Mr Von Weiszacker's five-day state visit is the first by a West German head of state to Bangladesh. It is the second leg of a three-nation Asian tour that also takes him to Burma and Malaysia.

The West German Embassy here said the main theme of Mr Von Weizsacker's visits to Dhaka and other Asian capitals was "the development policy responsibility the industrial countries have towards the Third World."

Officials here said the whole gamut of relations between Bangladesh and West Germany would be discussed in talks between Mr Weizsacker and Bangladesh president Hussain Mohammad Ershad. The two sides are expected to discuss how existing economic and technical cooperation can be expanded and how West Germany can help Bangladesh's development efforts.

In his meetings with Bangladeshi leaders the West German President is also due to engage in "political dialogue" about important international and regional issues, diplomatic sources predicted. He is also likely to be briefed on political developments following the launch in December of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, of which Bangladesh is a member, sources said. Sources here said the West German president would lead a 30-member delegation that includes Minister for Economic Cooperation Jurgen Warnke.

Officials here said relations between Bangladesh and West Germany were highlighted by increasing economic, financial, trade and technical cooperation bolstered by "problem-free and very good political relations."

Bangladesh, according to the West German Embassy here, is the sixth largest recipient of West German overseas development assistance.

Arrives 10 Feb

BK100724 Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali 0635 GMT 10 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Dr Richard von Weizsecker, president of the Federal Republic of Germany, was accorded a hearty welcome on his arrival in Dhaka at the start of a 5-day state visit to Bangladesh. He is accompanied by his wife Baroness (Marian) von Weizsecker. President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and Mrs Ershad received the distinguished guests at the Zia International Airport. This is the first visit of any FRG head of state to Bangladesh. The two presidents will hold a formal meeting tomorrow to review the bilateral relations established through increasing economic and technical cooperation.

Ambassador to Algeria Removed From Post

BK080301 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Feb 86 p 1

[Text] Mr. M.A. Chowdhury one of the seniormost career diplomats of Bangladesh has been removed from his post of Ambassador of Bangladesh to Algeria under P.O. No. 9 (a Presidential Order issued by Sheykh Mujibur Rahmon in March 1972, according to a message received in Dhaka on Sunday. Mr Chowdhury joined his assignment in Algeria only six or seven months ago. The reason for this unusual procedure is not yet known. Mr M.A. Chowdhury joined the foreign service in 1953 after successfully competing in the all Pakistan Civil Service examination securing second position.

Nationals Killed in Cypriot Oil Tanker Hit in Gulf

BK071404 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 7 Feb 86

[Text] Four Indian crewmen, including a marine engineer and electrical officer, were killed and seven others injured when a Cypriot oil tanker, *Avocet*, was hit in the southern sector off the Gulf yesterday. One body of the Indian killed has been recovered. One of the Indian crewmen injured was operated upon at (Hamad) Hospital in Doha, Qatar, this morning and has been declared out of danger. The Indian ambassador to Qatar, Professor S. Bashir Uddin, told our Gulf correspondent that the other six Indians sustained only minor injuries. Professor Uddin met the injured Indians and assured them of all assistance.

Most Delhi Markets Respond to Strike Call

BK100748 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 10 Feb 86

[Text] In Delhi, most markets are closed in response to a bundh [strike] call given by opposition parties protesting against the recent hike in prices of certain essential commodities. For some markets, Monday is the usual weekly close day. An official spokesman of the Delhi Transport Corporation [DTC] said its normal fleet of 5,000 buses are out on the roads. He said there are reports of holdups from some areas and about 40 buses have been damaged. A team of our correspondents who went round the city found private buses under DTC operation are mostly off the road. This has resulted in inadequate bus service in certain areas. People were stranded at several bus stops. Police sources said some persons indulging in violent acts have been taken into custody in different areas. Educational institutions, government offices and banks are open. However, industrial establishments in West Delhi are closed.

Continuing Reportage on Sikh Unrest in Punjab

Militants Kill Moderate Leader's Son

HK080459 Hong Kong AFP in English 0431 GMT 8 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Amritsar, India, Feb 8 (AFP) — Suspected Sikh militants have shot dead the 15-year-old son of a moderate Sikh leader in his Punjab village, police said. Four or five suspected Sikh militants late yesterday called at the home of Satinder Pal Singh in Mattenangal village, 35 kilometers (20 miles) from here, and shot at him as he opened the door, police said. The victim was the son of Onkar Singh Mattenangal, general secretary of the SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwar Prabandhak Committee], the moderate body which manages Sikh temples.

Spokesman: No Response to Strike

BK080929 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Feb 86

[Excerpt] According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, the call for the observance of protest day today has evoked no response from the people in Punjab. The call has been given by the All India Sikh Students Federation to protest against the police firing in Nakodar town of Jullundur District on Tuesday last. The spokesman said markets all over the state are open, vehicular traffic is operating as normal, and banks and commercial establishments are functioning as usual. Educational institutions have already have closed as a precautionary measure for 2 days since yesterday.

The spokesman said except for setting ablaze of a bus near Mukerian in Hoshiarpur District, no untoward incident has so far been reported from anywhere. Police pickets have been posted at all strategic place and patrolling by the police and other paramilitary forces have been intensified.

Curfew Relaxed in Nakodar

BK090925 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Feb 86

[Text] In Punjab, the curfew in Nakodar town has been relaxed for 3 hours since 0600 this morning. An official spokesman in Chandigarh said that elsewhere in the state two persons were seriously injured in Taran Taran and Batala towns when some unidentified miscreants fired at them. In another incident a few miscreants tried to set fire to the Gill railway station near Ludhiana last night.

2 Killed Near Ferozepore

BK091255 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Feb 86

[Text] In Punjab, the situation in Nakodar in Jullundur District is returning to normal. The curfew was relaxed today from 0600 to 0900 [0030-0330 GMT] and again from 1100 to 1430. No untoward incident has been reported during the relaxation period. Tomorrow it will be relaxed for (?7) hours from 0700 in the morning. All educational institutions in Amritsar District, including the teaching departments of Guru Nanak Dev University, have been closed up to the 16th of this month as a precautionary measure.

Meanwhile, two persons were killed and one injured when two gunmen fired indiscriminately at a shop in a village near Ferozepore last night.

Curfew Imposed in Gujarat Areas, 55 Arrested

BK100315 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Feb 86

[Text] Curfew in Palanpur town in north Gujarat has been relaxed only for women from 0700 to 0900 this morning. An indefinite curfew was reimposed there from yesterday afternoon following group clashes. The situation is said to be peaceful. The police have arrested 55 antisocial elements.

Bomb Damages Building in Karachi; 1 Dead

HK091149 Hong Kong AFP in English 1142 GMT 9 Feb 86

[Text] Karachi, Feb 9 (AFP) — At least one man was killed and several injured when a bomb exploded and set fire to a 10-storey building here today, police said. Police suspect terrorists may have planted the bomb which went off on the first floor of the building where the Pak-Libya Holding Company has offices. At least nine people were admitted to hospital with burns, reports said. The bomb had been concealed in a brief case and planted in the company's reception area, police said.

According to eye-witnesses, three persons jumped from the fifth floor of the building after the blast. One of them died instantly, while two others were badly injured. More than a dozen fire engines went to fight the blaze which engulfed the building.

No one has so far claimed responsibility for the blast.

Interior Minister on Plans To Counteract Sabotage

BK091048 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 9 Feb 86

[Excerpt] The government is to set up an organization which will specialize in unearthing and forestalling the crimes in the country and to eliminate recurrence of sabotage activities in the country.

This was stated by the federal minister for interior, Mr Mohammad Aslam Kham Khattak, while winding up the discussion on an adjournment motion admitted previously in the house relating to the bomb blast in PIA's [Pakistan International Airlines] building in Peshawar. The motion was talked out. He assured that the government will leave no stone unturned to apprehend saboteurs and punish them.

Efforts have also been made to totally stop infiltrators. The interior minister said although the law and order situation primarily concerned with provincial government, yet the central government cannot be absolved from the final responsibility in this connection. The center is to see that the law and order is being maintained throughout the country and for this purpose give the provinces all the support in the shape of guidance and assistance and provide funds to organize and strengthen their police force.

President Discusses Capability of Defense Forces

BK071054 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 7 Feb 86

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said the secret of survival and welfare of the country lies in the Islamic system of government.

In a newspaper interview he said by the Islamic system of government, he meant establishment of education, economic, and social and political system of the country in line with the principles of Islam. He said he and his associates did their bit within their powers to enforce the Islamic code of life in all spheres. This was undeniable.

The president earnestly hoped that the present assemblies would not lag behind in enforcement of the Islamic system as this was the basis of the creation of the country. The nation had great expectation from the elected representatives. His government covered some ground and it was now up to the elected representatives to carry out the mission forward.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said the government wished to provide residential accommodation to all the government employees. During the past 5 years about 30,000 houses were constructed in Islamabad alone. The government, however, could not spare all the money needed because there were priorities like education, agriculture and health. He said the Finance Ministry in consultation with the Planning Commission had prepared a scheme to provide residential accommodation at various places in the country.

Answering a question the president said that Pakistan was fully capable of meeting any aggression on its borders. Defense of the motherland was not the responsibility of the armed forces alone. If the entire nation was prepared to defend, no aggressor could dare cast an evil eye on the country.

Atomic Energy, Afghanistan, Kashmir

BK071712 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Feb 86

[Excerpt] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq says the survival and welfare of the country lies in the Islamic system of government. In an interview with a Multan daily he said by Islamic system of government he meant the establishment of an educational, economic, and sociopolitical system in thelcountry that is in line with the principles of Islam.

In response to a question, the president said Pakistan believes in the peaceful use of atomic energy. He said Pakistan welcomes India's assurance that it will not use atomic energy for military purposes.

On the Kashmir issue, the president said Pakistan wants to solve this issue according to UN resolutions and in the spirit of the Simla agreement. He said like the Afghanistan problem, this problem also does not have a military solution.

On the recent visit of the Iranian president to Pakistan, he said this will strengthen bilateral relations and will promote trade and understanding between the two countries.

MALDIVES

Delhi Reports Gandhi's Arrival for 3-Day Visit

BK070922 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Feb 86

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, arrived to a cordial welcome in Male today on a 3-day official visit to the Maldives. The welcoming party was headed by the president, Mr Maumoon Abdul Gayoom.

Banquet Held; Accord Signed

BK071634 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Feb 86

[Text] India and Maldives have demanded an end to the military rivalry in the Indian Ocean and restoration of the area as a zone of peace. The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, said in Male a short while ago that peace and stability of our region are threatened by military rivalries which are not of our making. Indeed, these rivalries threaten our very independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Mr Gandhi was speaking at a banquet given in his honor by the Maldives president, Mr Abdul Gayoom. He said we seek no one's protection. Our security is diminished, not increased, by foreign bases, military installations, and disposition of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction in the Indian Ocean.

The prime minister pointed out that instead of going ahead with the declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, we have seen continuing increase in military presence in the area. This has stood in the way of convening the conference to give a practical effect to the 1971 UN declaration. Mr Gayoom also referred to this issue in his speech earlier and said implementation of the relevant UN resolutions is of crucial importance for the stability and progress of the region.

The AIR [All India Radio] special correspondent, Manohar Takroo, covering the prime minister's visit says the highly strategic location of the Maldives in the middle of the Indian Ocean lends significance and weight to the joint call of the two leaders asking the superpowers to end their rivalry in the area. Our correspondent points out that the southern tip of the Maldives archipelago is less than 300 miles north of the widely criticized U.S. military base of Diego Garcia.

Both leaders expressed satisfaction over the recent formation of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SARC] at the Dhaka summit. Mr Gandhi said it has given a new dimension to our neighborly and friendly relations with big and small neighbors working together. President Gayoom said that while the seven SARC countries have equal status, India with its vast human and material resources has a substantial role to play in achieving the objective of the SARC. The two leaders also shared their concern over the lack of progress toward disarmament and the problems faced by the developing countries. The Maldives president also highly appreciated Mr Gandhi's decision to visit his country.

India and Maldives signed an agreement today to set up a joint commission to further strengthen their economic and technical cooperation. The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and his host, President Abdul Gayoom, were present at the simple signing ceremony held soon after their formal talks this evening. The finance minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, signed for India and the Maldives foreign minister, Mr Jameel, for his country. The agreement lays down that the commission will meet at least once in 2 years to consider ways and means of promoting bilateral codoperation. Our correspondent says that there is already considerable cooperation between India and the Maldives. A general trade agreement has been in operation since 1981 under which Maldives gets a variety of products from India. A cargo shipping service was also introduced in March last year between Male, Cochin, and Tuticorin. The joint commission will attempt to expand and intensify this cooperation further.

Further Details

BK081615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Feb 86

[Excerpt] India has agreed to provide assistance to the Maldives in several developmental programs at a total cost of 21 crore rupees. This was announced in Male at the end of talks between the two sides on the 2d day today of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Maldives. India will set up a 200-bad general hospital in Male at a cost of 10 crore rupees. It will also have a 10-bed meternity center and a 20-bed cardiac clinic.

In the area of tourism, which the mainstay of the Maldives economy, India will provide training to Maldivians in hotel management on a regular basis. Training will also be given in India to the television personnel of the Maldives and arrangements made to telecast Doordarsan [television] programs in Hindi in the Maldives through statellite.

It has been agreed that India will help in restoration of the 300-year-old Cooquru mosque, which the prime minister visited this morning. Indian archeological experts will be sent to the Maldives under the technical cooperation program to help in preservation of ancient monuments. The India side has also agreed to raise the baggage allowance of Indians visiting the island. The allowance will now be 750 rupees for stay of 3 days and 1,250 beyond that period. Maldives have also requested for training facilities for their students in a wide variety of disciplines, including engineering, medicine, and education in Indian institutions, to which India has agreed.

The AIR [All India Radio] special correspondent, Manohar Takroo, reports that the 21-crore rupee package gives a practical manifestation of India's keen desire to make available its resources to the neighboring countries in the true spirit of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] established recently.

Earlier, Mr Rajiv Gandhi went round several development projects and historic monuments in Male today. This evening the prime minister has been accorded a civic reception by the Male municipal council.

Holds News Conference, Departs

BK091653 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Feb 86

[Text] The prime minister has said that Sri Lanka could take more firm steps if it is really serious about a political solution to the ethnic problem in the island. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was answering questions at a news conference in Male today before his departure for New Delhi at the end of his 3-day visit to the Maldives. Asked if India would discontinue initiative for finding a solution, he said if Colombo is not really keen on our initiative, they should let us know.

The prime minister said his talks with President Gayoom and other leaders had revealed the similarity of views on various international issues. We have agreed to work together not only blaterally but also on the wider international plane, he said.

On improving relations with Pakistan, the prime minister said India will like to have quicker movement in this direction, but Pakistan is rather slow. However, Mr Gandhi said a lot of progress has been made to improve relations with Pakistan in bilateral trade and the border question.

In reply to a question about Punjab, the prime minister reaffirmed government's commitment to the accord with Sant Harchand Singh Longowal. He said at present the problem is between the state government and the extremists. It is for the state authorities to deal with the situation.

Mr Gandhi said terrorism is a menace affecting many parts of the world and requires tackling on the political plane.

He referred to his visits to various development projects in the Maldives and said he was very impressed at these. India is collaborating in a number of Maldivian projects and they look forward to increasing mutual cooperation. Asked what India can learn from the Maldives, he replied in fishing and tourism they had done well and Indians could benefit in these areas.

On his return to New Delhi this evening, Mr Gandhi told our correspondent that his visit to Maldives has helped the two countries come closer and improve relations significantly.

Discusses Tamil Ethnic Issue

BK101119 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 10 Feb 86

[Text] The Indian prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, has said that the Sri Lanka Government should let India know whether it was interested in a continued Indian initiative to help resolve Sri Lanka's ethnic problem. Addressing newsmen in Male yesterday shortly before ending a 3 day official visit to the Maldives, Mr Gandhi said that a planned visit to Colombo last Monday by Indian Foreign Secretary Romesh Bhandari had been postponed to prepare for the Maldivian trip. But sources in New Delhi said that an early visit to Colombo by Mr Bhandari was unlikely unless certain misunderstandings are removed by the Sri Lankan authorities to their response to the main Tamil political party's proposals on ending the present crisis. The sources said a communication received by New Delhi just before Mr Bhandari's planned visit to Colombo had not reflected the flexibility indicated during earlier contacts.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA quoted Mr Gandhi as expressing regret that despite India's mediation efforts violence still continues in Sri Lanka. He added that India wanted Sri Lanka to take back the refugees who had fled the violence to India.

SRI LANKA

Security Minister Says Peace Talks Depend on India

BK081115 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 8 Feb 86

[Text] The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, said that maintaining contacts between Tamil groups and the Sri Lankan Government to arrive at a peaceful solution to the ethnic problem now lies in the hands of the Indian Government. Addressing a news conference in Colombo yesterday, the minister expressed optimism on overcoming the present impasse. The minister, however, made it clear that there would be no Eelam [separation] or an amalgamation of the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

President Jayewardene has told Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi that if necessary a referendum could be held to obtain the views of the people of the regions but [words indistinct] there has been no response from the terrorist groups to this proposal.

Mr Athulathmwdali said that [words indistinct] power has to be within the unitary character emphasising Sri Lanka's Constitution. He said that the armed forces were strong and would defend themselves depite certain obstacles. They have no gunships but helicopters [words indistinct]. The terrorists have obtained weapons from abroad to attack helicopters, as helicopters were their target. Terrorists have also increased use of mortars and rocket-propelled grenades. Uma Mahesawaran, who is the leader of one of the terrorist groups, has told the Indian foreign secretary, Romesh Bhandari, that there is no solution other than a military solution to the problem.

Mr Athhulathmudali said that the Tamil problem is a political one and terrorism, on the other hand, is a military problem. He added that President Jayewardene has stated this fact.

Khomeyni Receives Officials on Air Force Anniversary

LD081121 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Feb 86

[Text] On the occasion of the Air Force anniversary, a large party of commanders, pilots, politico-religious officials, and Air Force personnel from the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, accompanied by Colonel Sediq, the commander of this force, this morning were received by Imam Khomeyni, the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces in Hoseyniyeh-e Jamaran [Khomeyni's residence in Tehran].

During this meeting, which was also attended by Mr Khamene'i, president of the Republic and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, the anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran and a special song were played. The Air Force commander then presented a report on the self-sacrifices and selflessness of this force's committed personnel and their joining the revolution on 19 Bahaman 1357 [11 February 1968], and also their sacrifices on the war fronts and the scientific and spiritual development which has emerged in this force.

At the conclusion of this report Mr Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, while presenting a detailed report on different issues and the development of the Air Force in various fields, expressed the appreciation and the affection of the imam of the ummah to the personnel of the Air Force. At the end of this meeting, the imam of the ummah responded to the display of emotion on the part of those present.

Khamene'i Speech Commemorating 10 Days of Dawn

LD101334 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Feb 86

[Speech by Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i on 10 February at the Hoseyniyeh Jamrana Religious Center in Tehran on the occasion of the 10 Days of Dawn and the Islamic revolution anniversary — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to the Lord of the universe and benedictions be to his prophet and entire scion! We offer gratitude to Almighty God who has granted us success on the anniversary of the true dawn of Islam and the Koran and the precious, unforgettable memory of the victory of the sacred Islamic revolution, whereby -- together with a group of our compatriots and a group of our Muslim brethren from other countries, who are guests of the Islamic Republic -- we have been graciously received by our illustrious and great leader, our great Qa'id, the exemplar of the path and tradition of the prophets for the people of this age and a model of piety, jihad, asceticism, and Islamic intellect.

The victory celebrations in our country and for our revolution are indeed celebrations for all Muslims. The Iranians are not the only ones who hold dear this great, historic event and observe it as a festival. Everywhere in the world, every aware and wakeful Muslim, every troubled and seared heart, even every tortured human being is gladdened and celebrates the victory of an oppressed and meek nation over an oppressor and tyrannical power, the greatest military and economic power of the present time and possibly of the entire history.

We offer our thanks to God for blessing the Iranian nation so that they could become the first nation to respond positively to the call of Islam and the Koran and echo the call for reviving Islam and the Islamic system in the world today. The guests of the 10 Days of Dawn are among those who have heard this call — the call of the prophets throughout the history of prophecies — and today are meeting the leader and initiator of this great divine movement and general leader the Islamic nation. Our compatriot brothers, farmers, workers, and brothers of the Islamic revolution committees, are attending this meeting.

O dear and great imam! I am humbly unable to say anything to you on behalf of our people: You are the father of this people, the imam of this Islamic nation and the beloved of the heart of every member of the Hezbollahi Islamic nation! As a person, as a Muslim, as an Iranian, I humbly beg to congratulate you on this momentous event of modern history, the victory of the revolution; to congratulate you to whom the honor of this victory belongs in the first place! I beseech Almighty God to awaken the Islamic nations, grant victory to the meek, render the powerful fist of the Islamic nation increasingly stronger and mightier and grant final victory to Islam's combatants! We are all eagerly awaiting to benefit from your excellency's speech. Peace and Allah's mercy be upon you! [shouts of approval]

U.S. Veto in UN on Israeli 'Air Piracy' Condemned

LD072146 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2106 GMT 7 Feb 86

[Text] Following the U.S. veto at the Security Council on a resolution calling for the condemnation of air piracy by the Jerusalem-occupying regime, the following statement was issued this evening by the Foreign Ministry:

In his exalted name. After the recent air piracy by the Zionist regime, which took place following an earlier act of air piracy by the U.S. Administration — an act which totally violated international law — a resolution was moved at the UN Security Council calling for condemnation of this terrorist and illegal act by the Jerusalem-occupying regime. However, as anticipated, it was vetoed by the United States, the regime's benefactor.

While reiterating its condemnation of this air piracy, the Islamic Republic of Iran considers the U.S. veto as a form of support for state terrorism, and there strongly condemns it. The Islamic Republic of Iran also declares that a failure to adopt decisive and practical decisions by Islamic, nonaligned and freedom-loving countries of the world against terrorist acts by the Jerusalem-occupying regime and its supporters will pave the way for this regime to expand state terrorism.

Majlis Speaker on Conditions for Future U.S. Ties

LD091958 Tehran IRNA in English 1940 GMT 9 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 9, IRNA — At a press interview with local and foreign reporters here Sunday Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-

Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said once France, the Soviet Union and other hitherto military supporters of the Iraqi regime despair of the viability of the ruling rgeime in Iraq and discontinue their [words indistinct] support for it, then Iran would "pound the finishing blows to the Iraqi government."

Rafsanjani said despite Iran's capability for winning the war by relying solely on military power, the Islamic government nevertheless insists that the eventual victory in the war should involve the least damage to internal resources in Iraq "so that the inconvenience to the Iraqi people would be minimal."

Iran's Majlis speaker said expressly that the Islamic Republic is awaiting "optimum political conditions" in the region before it would take the last crucial move in the Iraq-Iran war. He said conditions for the crucial thrust against the Iraqi forces are gradually developing, and noted that once the Persian Gulf states have been satisfied that in the event of its victory in the war the Islamic Republic will be absolutely no threat to them, Iran would then be one step ahead for the eventful move.

Rafsanjani said already "Certain supporters of Saddam" have concluded that the Ba'thist Party cannot live long in Iraq and that Saddam does not stand any chances in the future. "Despite their own findings" said Rafsanjani "They are still reluctant to witness the toppling of the ruling regime in Iraq in the wake of a thrust by Iran..."

Majlis speaker Rafsanjani said that as a result of Iran's tactful handling of the war and of its prudence and self-reservation in coping with Iraq's war crimes, and also largely due to Iran's policy of self-assertiveness in international forums, many world governments which used to be hostile towards the Islamic Republic now somehow appreciate and approve Iran's stand in the conflict. He said the unmitigated support for and contribution to the war effort by Iran's Muslim people, has in its own right, helped the government to speak out in defence of its stand in international meetings.

Asked to comment on a rumoured increase in oil production by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, Rafsanjani said he hates to take such reports as true, and added Iran looks forward to seeing each and every OPEC member aligned in a united move in the interest of their own peoples. He said already OPEC member states have given promises of a concerted move to cope with the circumstantial slump in oil prices. He noted, however, that once it be proved that "Saudi Arabia, Kuwait or any other country is collaborating with the Muslims' enemies — the United States and Britain — for driving down oil prices, we would consider the move as an act of betrayal"...

Asked to comment on Iran's relations with the Soviet Union, Rafsanjani said that the foreign policy dictum of the Islamic government is based on non-alignment with either of the superpowers. He added the Islamic government insists that the Soviet forces withdraw from Afghanistan and recognize the right of the Afghan people for political self-determination.

Rafsanjani said as far as the Iraq-Iran war is concerned, the Soviets, too, collaborated with the Baghdad regime and thereby inflicted blows upon Iran "though not like the Americans." He said, however, that relations between Iran and the Soviet Union are now fully-developed, and that the two countries cooperate in many areas. "To us," said Rafsanjani, "the Soviet Union is not like the United States. The United States is principally responsible for the crimes committed during the Shah's time, and even after the Shah the Americans have ceaselessly plotted against us."

The Majlis speaker said non-alignment and independence means negation of foreign domination by any foreign power, which does not necessary imply rejection of friendship on a fair and equal basis with foreign governments.

Commenting elsewhere on another question in the interview of whether or not the Islamic Republic might one day agree to receive an assistant to the U.S. secretary of state on the same token that it had recently received a Soviet Foreign Ministry official, Rafsanjani said that Iran "has not sworn to be crossed with the United States until the doomsday" that once the U.S. policy-makers "rectify themselves, then in a distant future that may be likely" provided that the Washington deals with Iran as an independent country and give up its "colonialistic" goals and unreasonable expectations. [sentence as received]

Towards the end of the interview Iran's Majlis speaker called on local and foreign reporters to "serve the cause of humanity" and reflect facts as they happen and let truth prevail. He said the media-men who misrepresent facts in the interest of the big powers do in fact betray themselves and the agency for which they work.

Prime Minister Comments on Fall in Price of Oil

LD092300 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 9 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Reviewing the country's political-economic developments, during its session today the Cabinet discussed ways to combat the plot by industrial countries and some reactionary regimes in reducing oil prices. Also discussed was the outcome of the tripartite session of the oil ministers of Iran, Libya and Algeria. During the session the Commerce Ministry was assigned to look into trade with countries that are playing a part in the plot to reduce oil prices.

At the end of the session, in an interview with our correspondent, Prime Minister Musavi answered questions about developments in the oil market and the decrease in foreign currency reserves resulting from the reduction in the oil prices, to which we draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, considering the changes that are taking place in the oil market, please tell us what new decisions the Islamic Republic has taken in that respect? And generally, how will this affect oil revenues?
[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Our policy is to limit output and stabilize prices. It seems that most OPEC countries share this view. We will stand firm on this. As stated before, our exports...[changes thought] We tried to overcome this situation which countries like Britain and its lackeys have created and [words indistinct]. The important point

concerning this plot, which should be [words indistinct], is the issue of Saudi Arabia. We know that she sells 6 million barrels. [as heard] This means that if one of the oil-producing countries lowers its output to foil Britain's plot, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait both sabotage the effort, sending their oil in great quantities and at a low price — as a gift, so to speak — to the big powers.

I said to the dear people of Esfahan that this is like giving a present to the superpowers and arrogant powers, supporting the policies of the superpowers. This would definitely not be in the interests of these regimes. We advise them to [words indistinct], observe the interests of the Muslim nations in the region. There is no reason for Saudi Arabia to present $8 billion [words indistinct] to the industrial world, which includes the United States, Britain and others. This could inflame the nations. It is not in the interests of these countries. We strongly condemn it. We ask them to clarify their policies on the issue as soon as possible. British oil does not have the power to alter prices; her exports are very low. The British cannot do anything in this matter to alter prices. They do the [words indistinct] and the policy-making, and Saudi Arabia and her friends in the region implement the policies. In addition to its not being in the interests of the Muslims and the Saudi nation, we consider it a hostile stance toward the Islamic Republic. We believe that it should be (?clarified) quickly; otherwise, we will not remain quiet.

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, according to some reports, some countries in the region sold their oil for $15 yesterday. If this continues and Iran is forced to sell its oil at around that price, how will you compensate for the decrease in foreign currency resulting in our oil revenues?
[Musavi] Since the year (?60) (?1981-2), we have faced a crisis regarding foreign currency revenues. We have resorted to programs by which we could continue our economic existence, as it were, regardless of fluctuations in oil revenues. This has been so in recent years; that is, they went up and down. Sometimes they hit our tankers; sometimes our exports from the Persian Gulf dropped. In spite of all this, we continued our policies without [words indistinct]. That is how things are at present. We have no worries in that respect. Thanks to the presence of the people and the preparedness of the government, we could run the country without oil revenues.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,374

LD071748 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 7 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 7, IRNA — The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran reports here Friday that Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions in the northwestern fronts Thursday, killed or wounded a number of Iraqi soldiers and halted their tactical operations.

In its communique number 2374, the command says that artillery duels between Iranian Muslim combatants and Iraqi troops continued in the western fronts Thursday raging somewhat more heavily in Qasr-e Shirin, Helaleh and Sumar. Elsewhere in the western fronts Iranian forces pounded Iraqi positions in Mehran inflicting heavy casualties on them and halting their combat engineering operations.

In the southern fronts, the Joint Staff communique says, Iranian Muslim forces prevented Iraqi forces from carrying out tactical operations and pounded their positions in Yebis inflicting casualties and losses on them. Meanwhile sporadic long-range artillery fire of Iraqi forces on the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr, both in Khuzestan Province, Thursday, caused little damage in Abadan.

Communique No 2,375

LD081741 Tehran IRNA in English 1724 GMT 8 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb 8, IRNA — At least 20 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and eight gun emplacements together with one tank of theirs were destroyed in the western fronts Friday as their positions were pounded by Iranian Muslim combatants, according to a military communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here Saturday.

In its Communique Number 2375 the command said that exchange of artillery fire between Iranian forces and Iraqi troops continued in the western fronts Friday raging somewhat more heavier in Sumar, Kani-Sheykh and Nowsud.

The Joint Staff Communique says that Iran's Muslim combatants pounded Iraqi positions in Marivan setting fire to most of their positions. Elsewhere in Piranshahr and Sardasht they ambushed Iraqi soldiers inflicting substantial casualties and damage on them.

Iranian artillery fire forced two Iraqi patrol units to flee as they were trying to infiltrate their positions in Kani-Sheykh and elsewhere in areas overlooking Qasr-e Shirin Friday. Enemy troops sustained casualties according to the communqiue.

The communique says that artillery duels between Iranian Muslim troops and Iraqi soldiers continued in the southern fronts especially in Majnun Islands where fire of Iraqi tanks was silenced by Iranian artillery fire. The movement of an Iraqi armoured column in areas overlooking Hoseyniyeh was reconnoitered and checked by Iranian forces Friday.

Communique No 2,376

LD091520 Tehran IRNA in English 1501 GMT 9 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb 9 IRNA — The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran reports here Sunday that Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions in the western fronts Saturday, killed or wounded at least 20 Iraqi soldiers and demolished two vehicles, one munitions dump and several bankers of theirs.

The Communique Number 2376 of the Joint Staff Command says that Iranian anti-aircraft units repulsed Iraqi war planes violating the airspace of Mehran, Sumar and Naft-e Shah, Western fronts, Saturday.

In the southern fronts, the communique says, Iranian forces checked the movements of Iraqi tanks near the Majnun Islands as well as transport of their armoured units elsewhere in Hoseyniyeh Saturday.

Iranian Muslim combatants opened fire on an Iraqi patrol unit and on other pre-determined targets of Iraqi forces near Nahr-Anbar Saturday, inflicting substantial casualities and losses on them and forcing the Iraqi patrols to flee, according to the communique.

The Joint Staff communique says that Iranian forces shelled Iraqi positions in the northwestern fronts Saturday inflicting substantial casualties and damage on them and held their combat and engineering operations.

Exchange of artillery fire between Iranian troops and Iraqi soldiers continued throughout the fronts Saturday raging somewhat more heavily in Qasr-e Shirin and Sumar, western fronts and in Majnun Islands and Zayd, southern fronts, says the Joint Staff Command. Meanwhile, some buildings in Abedan, Khuzestan Province, sustained minor damage Saturday as they were hit by Iraqi long-range artillery fire.

Spokesman Denies Iraq Downed Planes

LD091049 Tehran IRNA in English 1041 GMT 9 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb 9, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) here Sunday categorically denied claims of the Iraqi regime alleging it had downed two Iranian fighter planes Saturday. He said that contrary to the Baghdad regime's allegations on downing the two Iranian aircraft over Al-Basrah Province, the Iranian Air Force did not carry out any mission in the air space of Al-Basrah Province. However, he stressed, if the Iraqi regime insisted on its claims, it should better show the wreckage of the downed planes and their pilots on the T.V. to the Iraqi people. The Iraqi regime made the allegations in its 2019th military communique Saturday.

New War Offensive Launched

LD100402 Tehran IRNA in English 0400 GMT 10 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 10, IRNA — The Islamic Combatants of Iran launched an offensive at 2200 hours local time (1830 GMT) Sunday night and are approaching towards their pre-determined targets successfully, the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters announced Monday.

Further Details

GF100417 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 10 Feb 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Please listen to an announcement which we have just received: According to the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, on the eve of the eighth anniversary of the Islamic revolution's victory, the combatants of Islam were able to inflict considerable blows on the Ba'thist-Zionist enemy in operations last night. These operations which began last night at 2200 [1830 GMT] culminated in the sustaining of heavy losses by the enemy and some personnel of the Iraqi Armed Forces were captured by the forces of Islam.

Enemy 'Crushed' in Khorramshahr Offensive

LD100750 Tehran IRNA in English 0742 GMT 10 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 10, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) said here Monday that the offensive launched by the Islamic combatants of Iran in Khorramshahr region Sunday night "is a serious warning to the Iraqi regime". He added that only parts of the "Karbala' caravan" [as received] voluntary forces took part in the offensive, adding that so far they have inflicted heavy blows on the Iraqi forces. The spokesman said that the Islamic combatants have crushed enemy forces in the operational theater and have captured many of them. He noted that in the Sunday night's offensive, the Iranian forces seized a considerable amount of munition from the Iraqi enemy.

The "Karbala' Caravan" volunteer forces, as a practical warning to the Iraqi regime and its reactionary supporters, dealt a heavy blow on the Iraqi forces Sunday night, added the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters communique. The communique said that on the eve of the 7th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the committed Iranian forces launched "Val-Fajr-8" offensive, code named "Ya-Zahra", at 22:00 hours Sunday. The offensive posed a grave danger on the Iraqi port city of Al-Basrah at the early stage of the operation and a large number of Iraqi forces were killed and many others were captured. The communique stressed that a vast area was liberated and large amount of munition was seized in this offensive.

It also called on the Iranian people to pray for the victory of Islam and Islamic combatants and for the health of the leader of the Islamic Revolution and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, Imam Khomeyni.

Damage to Al-Basrah Noted

GF100818 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0752 GMT 10 Feb 86

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention: Communique number one from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' joint operational headquarters has just reached us, which reports the beginning of another offensive against the Ba'thist enemy which we now present to the (?heroic) nation.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. "By the dawn and by the 10 nights." [Koranic verse] The Islamic combatants, the Karbala' wayfarers, alongside the resistant nation and the Jerusalem reserve battalions, have issued a warning to the Ba'thist enemy and its oppressive and reactionary supporters, and have dealt a dreadful blow on the tottering forces of the aggressor enemy.

On the threshold of the seventh anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution, our strong dedicated armed forces initiated the "Val-Fajr 8" offensive codenamed "Ya Zahra" at 2200 local time [1830 GMT] last night. From the beginning of the operations, Al-Basrah was exposed to serious damage and many enemy soldiers have been routed and a considerable number captured by the forces of Islam. Areas that have been conquered and the booty obtained are sizeable and will soon be reported in later announcements to our mature nation. We ask you, the righteous nation, to pray for divine victory and the prestige of Islam and the Muslims and the longevity of Imam Khomeyni, the esteemed leader and commander in chief of the armed forces. "With the assistance of God, victory is at hand." [Koranic verse]

Further Details

LD100838 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0752 GMT 10 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Dear listeners we draw your attention to communique No 1 from Khatam ol-Anbiya' HQ, the joint operational headquarters for the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces and the Revolution Guards Corps, conveying a warning by commencing another offensive directed at the Ba'thist enemy:

In the name of Allah, the compassionate, the merciful. The Islamic selfless warriors, the wayfarers of Karbala' alongside the resisting nation and reserve division of Jerusalem have dealt another frightening blow to the Ba'thist enemy and issued a warning through action to the reactionary and arrogant supporters. On the eve of the beginning of the 8th year of the Islamic revolution, our mighty and committed forces at 2200 hours last night began "Dawn-8" operations, code-named "Ya-Zahra." In the first few hours of the operations, Al-Basrah came under serious threat, a large number of the enemy forces were knocked out of action, and a considerable number were captured by Islam's forces. The land and hardware taken as booty is considerable in quantity and will be covered in later communiques. We urge you, the justice-seeking ummah to pray for divine succor and the glory of Islam and Muslims, and to the health of our beloved leader and commander in chief, Imam Khomeyni, divine succor and a great victory.

Strategic Island 'Liberated'

LD100953 Tehran IRNA in English 0948 GMT 10 Feb 86

[Text] Omm ol-Rasas, Fl. 10, IRNA — The Islamic combatants of Iran liberated the strategic Omm ol-Rasas Island, west of the Arvand River, inside the Iraqi territory, Monday. The island was liberated in the course of "Val-Fajr 8" offensive launched by the Iranian volunteer forces Sunday night. The island is strategic due to its important oil installations.

Further Details

LD101106 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1040 GMT 10 Feb 86

[Communique No 2 issued by the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters in connection with the "Val-Fajr 8" operation]

[Text] The victorious combatants of the monotheistic army — a few hours after their victorious attack, and following the crossing of the Arvand River — in the course of amphibian operations succeeded in liberating Omm ol-Rasas Island west of Khorramshahr. Our zealous combatants have consolidated their positions on the island and are ready to repulse any enemy counterattack on the island and turn it into yet another victory. The courageous men of the Islamic Army, in order to liberate (Omm ol-Rasas Island), smashed through fortifications which the Iraqi satan had considered as steel-like, and once again demonstrated that that their iron will is capable of countering and crushing any strategem and obstacle. Enemy casualties and losses in the course of these operations will be announced after a meticulous count. "Succor from God and a nigh victory." [Koranic verse]

[Signed] The Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters

Tehran Cites Iraqi Communique

LD101124 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Feb 86

[Text] According to a Central News Agency report, in a military communique broadcast this morning by Iraqi Ba'thist Zionist regime's radio, the Iraqi Army admitted that the Iranian forces had penetrated the ranks of Iraq's 7th Corps. In this communique, the Iraqi regime noted the advance made by Islam's combatants tantamount to obtaining bridgeheads in the areas controlled by the 7th Corps. The Iraqi regime, which at the outset of the communique, claimed the launching of a counterattack by Iraq's 7th and 3d Corps, in conclusion noted that the battle was continuing east of Al-Basrah. In the meantime AFP, KUNA, and REUTER communicated the reports on the victories gained by the Islamic Army.

The Iraqi regime, in another communique, admitted that the Iranian forces, in their attack, had crossed Iraq's borders and entered Iraqi territory.

'Islam's Warriors' Advance on Al-Basrah

LD101231 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1205 GMT 10 Feb 86

[From the Press Review]

[Summary] RESALAT today reports: "Islam's Warriors, wishing to liberate Karbala', are in the process of advancing deep inside enemy defenses. Al-Basrah is at the threshold of serious damage."

'Karbala' Marchers' Control Strategic Areas

LD101630 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 10 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 10 IRNA — A military communique released here by the Khatam ol-Anbiya' joint Army-IRGC HQ Monday evening, said that a wide area of sensitive and strategic regions in the West of the Arvand River, were now in the control of the "Karbala Marchers". It said the Islamic Combatants of Iran had destroyed or seized hundreds of enemy tanks, personnel

carriers, loaders, bulldozers, trucks, and light vehicles. A large quantity of ammunition was also seized from the enemy troops, it said. The communique said it will disclose more precise figures in later communiques.

Further on Khatam ol-Anbiya' Communique

LD101717 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Feb 86

[Communique No 3 issued by Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters released "tonight"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. By the dawn and ten nights, you courageous ummah of Islam, combative nation of Iran, your victorious combatants extended the limits of their success today by heroically crossing the Arvand River at several points and smashed the defensive fortificationsof the abject Ba'thists and they are still advancing. In addition to the achievements mentioned in previous communiques issued by Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, we wish to inform you that at present, a large expanse of the sensitive and strategic area west of the Arvand River is controled by the Karbala' marchers and hundreds of tanks, personnel carriers, loaders, bulldozers, lorries and light vehicles belonging to the enemy have either been destroyed or taken by the combatants of islam as booty.

In addition to taking a considerable amount of ammunition as booty, a large number of weapons have either been captured by the forces of Islam or have been destroyed. God willing, the exact statistics and figures in this connection will be brought to the attention of our esteemed people in subsequent communiques. With God's help victory is nigh.

[Signed] Khatam ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the Center for Joint Operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran